

### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 16, 21, 25, and 26 are currently pending. Claims 1, 6, and 16 have been amended; and Claims 2, 7, 17-20, and 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to regarding various informalities; Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, regarding the stiffness matrix shown in Figure 5B; Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding questions of antecedent basis; Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter; Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang et al. ("Simulation of T-Section Profile Ring Rolling by the 3-D Rigid-Plastic Finite Element Method") (hereinafter "the Yang et al. reference"); and Claims 4, 9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Yang et al. reference in view of Davey et al. ("An Efficient Solution Method for Finite Element Ring-Rolling Simulation") (hereinafter "the Davey et al. reference").<sup>1</sup>

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interviews granted Applicants' representative on May 24, 2005, and June 1, 2005, at which time the Examiner indicated that Claims 2, 7, and 17 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, as discussed below, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 6, and 16 to incorporate the limitations recited in Claims 2, 7, and 17, respectively.

---

<sup>1</sup> Applicants note that Claims 2, 7, and 12 were not rejected based on prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to the specification and the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 101 were addressed in the Amendment filed May 10, 2005, and, based on the discussions with the Examiner, those objections and rejections have been overcome.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 2, 7, 17-20, and 22-24 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of those claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in Claim 2. Accordingly, based on the indicated allowability of Claim 2, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 (and dependent Claims 3-5, 21, and 26) are in condition for allowance. Further, Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in Claim 7. Accordingly, based on the indicated allowability of Claim 7, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 6 (and dependent Claims 8-10 and 25) are in condition for formal allowance. In addition, Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the limitations recited in Claim 17. Accordingly, based on the indicated allowability of Claim 17, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is in condition for allowance.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 6, and 16 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the Yang et al. reference and the Davey et al. reference.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

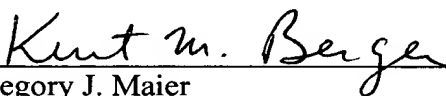
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:KMB\la

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599  
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 51,461

I:\ATTY\KMB\212's\212671US\212671US-SUPP AM.DOC